

Cancel claims 1-20 without prejudice and add new claims:

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21. A pipeline comprising pipe with an insulating conglomerate therearound, wherein said conglomerate comprises a bituminous composition comprising a polymeric modifier that enhances the dimensional stability of said bituminous composition at the operating temperatures and loads imposed by the pipeline.

22. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein bituminous compositions are the main contributors to the thermal resistance to heat transfer between said pipe and the environment.

23. The pipeline of claim 21, wherein said insulating layer is more than 3/4 inch thick.

24. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said polymeric modifier forms a network of continuous phases, wherein bitumen is one of said continuous phases.

25. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said modifiers comprise polyolefin polymers.

26. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said modifiers comprise atactic polypropylene.

27. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said modifiers comprise a combination isotactic and atactic polypropylene.

28. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said composition comprises styrene block co-polymers.

29. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said polymeric modifier comprises ethylene vinyl acetate.

30. The pipeline of claim 21 wherein said polymeric modifier comprises chloroprene.